A true Relation of ſtrange and ſiniſter practiſes uſed by ſome of the Lord *Arundell* of *Wardours* Agents, to remove the Lord *Baltemore* from the Poſſeſsion of the Mannor of *Sembleigh*, and other Lands in the County of *Wilts*, in an illegall way, by abuſing and diſhonouring the Parliament and their Committees and chiefe Officers of the Army, by engaging them therein upon falſe Informations; as the ſame are hereafter truely Expreſſed and Declared, by one that hath been well acquainted with, and employed in, the whole Tranſactions and Paſſages of this buſineſſe; and intended by him for the better ſatisfaction of the Members and Officers of Parliament and Army, Committees, Souldiers, Countrey-men, and all others who have had, or may have, any Ingagement, or Intermedling in this buſineſſe.

THis Mannor and Farme were about 10 yeares ſithence lawfully conveyed unto the Lord *Baltemore* by *Thomas* Lord *Arundell*, Grandfather to the now Lord *Arundell*, and the Lord *Baltemore* then put into the poſſeſſion thereof in the life time of the ſaid *Thomas*, by the holding a Court in his name, and Attornement of the Tenants, and his poſſeſſion ther-

of ever ſince continued, and the Courts kept in his name, without any ejectment at all, notwithſtanding ſeverall ſutes have happened, upon which there yet hath been no execution in Law to diſturbe or lawfully evict him, and therefore Sequeſtred by the Committee of *Wilts* for the Lord *Baltemores* Recuſancy, and letten as his eſtate to their Tenants.

But all manner of wayes (as well by force in time of War, as otherwiſe) having been tryed to out the L. *Baltemore* of this his juſt poſſeſſion before the Law had determined the ſame, about two years ſithence this ſtratagem was deviſed, Mr. *Harvy*, one of the L. *Arundells* Counſel, Mr. *Tho. Farmer* his Lordſhips Brother in Law, with other their agents, cauſed a Petition to be prefer'd in the name of one *Richard Auſten*, (pretended to be a Captaine under the Parliament) to the Committee of Lords & Commons for Sequeſtrations, (before whom no ſuch man appeared, or was known to any of them, as appeares upon Oath) and upon Information to the Committee of Lords and Commons, that the L. *Arundells* Father had a Verdict at Law for the premiſes (upon which nevertheleſſe there yet hath been no execution) and was in the quiet poſſeſſion therof untill the ſequeſtration, and that ſithence that time onely the poſſeſſion was gained by the L. *Baltemore* or his Agents (which is moſt apparently falſe) and upon their procuring their caſe to be reported to the Committe, upon examination of Witneſſes on their ſide only, without the L. *Baltemores* being heard, or ſo much as ever having notice thereof, the 22. of *December*, 1647. obtained their Honours Order to the Committee of *Wilts*, for removing the L. *Baltemore* out of his ten years juſt poſſeſſion, and for admitting *Auſten*, the pretended Informer, Tenant, upon pretence the State had injury by his Title, whereby they had but two parts for his Recuſancy, and would have all for the L. *Arundels* Delinquency. But the ſaid Order alſo referr'd it to the Committe of *Wilts* to examine Witneſſes on both ſides, and certifie them, & then further conſideration ſhould be taken for allowance of the L. *Baltemores* right.

Dec. 22 1647.

And in proſecution of their Deſigne, one *Henry Hughes* was by them hired to goe down with this Order to the Committee of *Wilts*, with theſe Inſtructions, *viz.* that he ſhould alter his name, and goe by the name of *Robert Hinckley*; that he ſhould pretend a Letter of Atorney from one *Auſten*, (a man he never ſaw) and ſhould pretend he was preſent at the Committee of Lords and Commons, and ſaw Sir

Arthur

Arthur Haſlerig ſtand up and ſay that the pretended *Auſten* had ſerved under his Command, and been faithfull, done good ſervice, and much in arreare, and had been at great charges, following this againſt the L. *Baltemore*, (none of which hee was ever privy to, or heard, or ſaw) and alſo for his repaire to Mr. *Hurman*, *Stephen Blandford*, Mr. *Nicholas*, *Henry Swetman*, & other the L. *Arundells* Agents in *Wiltſhire*, for procuring ſecurity to the Committee, and other accommodations fit for this Deſigne, as appeares at large by the depoſition of *Hughes*, taken before the Committee of *Wilts*.

Whereupon the Committee of *Wilts* upon full examination of witneſſes, and ſeveral hearings and debates of the buſines on all ſides, the 27. of *January* 1647. certified their Honours the reaſons why they could not obey this Order of *Auſtens*, and that the ſaid Order was grounded upon falſe Informations, and done by combination onely for the benefit of the L. *Arundell*, by the proſecution of his Agent *Blanford* (as himſelfe confeſt to them upon oath) in abuſe of the State; and further certified, that the L. *Arundell*, nor any other ever had any execution of their Verdict, and that neither he or his Father ever had the poſſeſſion of any of the premiſes, otherwiſe than as by leavying of certaine rents from ſome of the Tenants for a yeare and a half, in the time of War and abſence of the L. *Baltemore*, when the L. *Arundell* was in Armes in that County; But that the L. *Baltemores* Servants then alſo kept the poſſeſſion of the Mannor Houſe, and his Tenants the other parts of the premiſes, and had ſo kept the ſame from before the death of *Thomas* L. *Arundell* the Grandfather, untill the time of laying on the Sequeſtration (though Bribes were offered his ſervants to obtaine the poſſeſſion from him) and the Courts ever held in his name during all that time, and the homage there refuſing to be ſworne, or keep any Court in the L. *Arundels* name, when forced by him in the ſaid time of War; And that therefore they had by power of ſeverall Ordinances of Parliament letten the premiſes as the L. *Baltemores*, and could not in juſtice turne him out of poſſeſſion before any legall eviction, and put it into other hands for the benefit of the L. *Arundell*, as that was intended, and alſo null their own bargaine made thereof to the L. *Baltemores* Tenant, for which the Rents, Quarterings, and other charges were duely payed, as by their Certificate at large alſo appeareth. Jan. 27. 164

The Committee of Lords and Com. Ordered publication ſhould be Febr. 16. 164

 made

made of the Depoſitions taken, and this Certificate, and the L. Preſident *Bradſhaw* thereupon deſired to report the ſame to the Committee, to which he aſſented, but the ſame as yet never reported, heard, or determined there, though much deſired by the L. *Baltemore*.

But the ſaid *Harvy*, *Farmer*, and other Combinators, (in further proſecution of their ſtrange Plot and Conſpiracy againſt the ſaid juſt poſſeſſion of the L. *Baltemore*) about *May* 1648. procured the ſaid *Hughes* to hire one *Robert Pearce* to perſonate the pretended *Auſten* before the Committee of Lords and Com. with theſe Inſtructions, *viz.* that he ſhould tell them his name was *Auſten*, that he had done the State good ſervice, that they were much in Arrear to him, and that he had been at great charges in following this buſineſſe, and ſending downe a former Order to the Committee of *Wilts*, which they refuſed to obey, and therefore ſhould deſire their Honours to ſend for the Committee of *Wilts* to anſwer their contempts, as by the Depoſitions of *Hughes*, *Pearce*, and *Mark Chappell*, taken alſo before the Committee of *Wilts*, at large appeares.

And therupon (& without the L. *Baltemores* being heard, or having any notice, and without Informing their Lordſhips of the former Reference to, and certificate from the Committee of *Wilts*, and how the whole buſineſſe ſtood undetermined before their Honours thereupon) their Honours Order of the 2 of *June* 1648. was obtained to the Committee of *Wilts*, for their obeying the former Order of 22. *Dec.* 1647. or ſhew cauſe within a moneth: Or in default thereof, to be ſent for by a Meſſenger to attend them.

In which Order, being not to their minde (as directing the Committee to ſhew cauſe, which they had as before done at large, and no determination thereupon) they never proceeded further, having in their obtaining thereof ſo ſcandalled and prejudiced the Committee of *Wilts*, in the opinion of the Lords and Com. as is afore mentioned.

And the L. *Baltemore* (knowing nothing of this laſt practiſe and Order) in purſuance of the former Order of 16 *February*, procured their Honours Order of the 23. of *June*, 1648. that this cauſe might be heard the Wedneſday ſenight after, and the Lord Preſident *Bradſhaw* then deſired to report the ſame: but nothing was done thereupon, by reaſon of other great affaires of the Kingdome then happening.

In all this time theſe unjuſt practiſes and combinations were carried

ried privately, and kept from the Lord *Baltemores* knowledge, untill the latter end of June, 1648. when the ſaid *Henry Hughes* the 30. of June, 1648. diſcovered and depoſed the ſame before the Committee of *Wilts*. June 30. 1648.

Upon diſcovery whereof, the Lord *Baltemore* applyed himſelf by Petition to the Committee of Lords and Commons; but the great affaires of the Kingdome intervening, and that Committee diſſolving, had no anſwer thereupon, neither did he imagine, that after the diſcovery of ſuch foule practiſes, they would any further intermeddle therein.

Yet in September laſt, in further proſecution of their unjuſt deſign, they pretended *Auſten* to be dead, and one *Richard Bayly* was ſet up to revive the buſineſſe as a new Informer for the benefit of the State, and without the Lord *Baltemores* having any notice, or being heard therein, and by their miſinformation to their Honours of that part of the Order of 22 December, only that concerned the putting *Auſten* in poſſeſſion as Tenant, but not informing them then of the former reference therein, and Certificates from the Committee of *Wilts*, and without informing or taking notice of the laſt Order of the 2. of June, 1648. of purpoſe to miſlead them. Septem. 1648.

They procured their Honours Order to confirme the former Order of 22 Dece. (ſo unjuſtly obtained) for admitting *Bayly* Tenant of the premiſſes to the State in ſtead of *Auſten*, and for the other Lands in the Petition mentioned to lye in Tisbury, referr'd it to the Examination of the Lord Preſident, whoſe leiſure did not permit him to doe any thing therein ever ſince. Sept. 20. 1648.

And this Order alſo was unknown to the Lord *Baltemore*, and carried privately by them untill March 1648. when they to countenance theſe their unjuſt proceedings in the Lord *Baltemores* abſence, upon the ſame falſe grounds and miſinformations, procured the Generals, and Lieutenant-Generals Letters to the Committee of *Wilts*, endeavouring thereby to have unjuſtly drawn in their Honours to be aiding in the accompliſhment of their unjuſt ends, by engaging the Committee of *Wilts* to obey the Orders they had upon ſuch juſt grounds, and for ſo good reaſons excuſed themſelves in. March 1648.

And now the Lord *Arundell* himſelfe, M. *Farmer*, and other his Agents, more publikely appeare in the proſecution of this buſines, from whence

whence it may be presum'd that they were not wholly ignorant of, if not acting in the former practises.

But yet notwithstanding, the Committee of *Wilts* againe at a full Committee(8 of them being then present) and upon a long and serious debate of all these matters, new Examinations of witnesses on both sides, and hearing of all parties upon the said Order and Gene-
March 9. 1648. rals Letters the 9. of Mar. 1648. again resolved that the L. *Baltemore* was in the quiet possession of the premises at the time of the Sequestration, and that he ought to enjoy the premises according to their
June 20. 1649. grant; And the 20. of June, 1649. certified the same to the Barons of the Exchequer too, with the reasons why they could not obey the Orders of the 22. of Dec. and 20 of Sept. 1647. without apparent prejudice and injustice to the Lord *Baltemore*, as they had formerly certified at large, unto which they referr'd themselves.

Whereupon the Lord *Baltemore* conceived himselfe secure untill the Barons should determine the whole businesse upon the former Certificates and Depositions.

Yet in further prosecution of their unjust designe(in the absence of the Lord *Baltemore*, and within 2 or 3 dayes after the death of his
July 26. 1649. Lady, taking advantage of that his sad condition) the 26. of July last they procured some of the Committee of *Wilts* to meet at Marleborough(20 miles from Salisbury, where this busines was always transacted)and most of them being altogether unacquainted with the former transactions therein, and the others that were overvoted by them, without the Lord *Baltemores* being heard therein, and without taking any notice of the former transactions and Orders made by the Committee of *Wilts* at Salisbury upon the said 2 former Orders of the 22. of Dec. and 20. of Sept. 1647. or of the businesse being yet depending undetermined before the Barons) then procured their Order immediately to out the L. *Baltemore* of his possession, and to put in the said *Stephen Blandford*(an especial Agent in all the former practises) to be Tenants under the title of the Lord *Arundell*, thereby also desiring all Officers and Souldiers to be aiding and assisting to the said *Blandford* in his obtaining the same (grounded upon such unjust and false Informations) whereby the Title at Law is not only in an extrajudicial manner determined, and the Lord *Baltemore* ordered to be put out of the possession of his Mannor House, and premises, which he

he hath theſe 10 years laſt paſt had in his juſt poſſeſſion; but alſo moſt unconſcionably it would out the Lord *Baltemore* of the poſſeſſion of the Lands in Tisbury, yet never queſtioned in Law by the Lord *Arundell*, nor ordered or determined, or they any wayes impowred to doe the ſame by the Committee of Lords and Commons, or any other Committee; and alſo would make void the Eſtate and Right in all the premiſes under the Grant made him by the ſtanding Committee of *Wilts* themſelves, notwithſtanding that he hath paid to the ſaid Committee 3 quarters of this yeares Rent, and diſcharged all publike Taxes and quarterings for the ſame.

Whereupon the firſt of Auguſt inſtant, *John Dove* Eſquire, Member of Parliament, M. *William Lualow*, and M. *Robert Good*, (all Members of the Committee of *Wilts*, and formerly well acquainted with all the paſſages thereof) met as a Committee at Salisbury, and then and there made null the ſaid laſt Order of the 26. of July, for the reaſons aforementioned, and as made by thoſe unacquainted with the paſſages of this buſines, and for vindication of the lawfull Grant made to *John Weeks* on the behalfe of the Lord *Baltemore*, by them and others of the Committee, and to avoid the ſcandall that might lye upon their Committee by exerciſing an arbitrary power in determination of Titles, by giving poſſeſſion before the Law have determined the ſame, and to prevent the ſhedding of ſuch bloud as might be ſpilt in the keeping the poſſeſſion by as good and juſt a power as thoſe that would take the ſame from him, as by their Order and Letter to thoſe of the Committee of Marleborough appeares. Aug. 1. 1649.

Upon which juſt grounds and reaſons, his Excellency the Lord Generall *Fairfax* hath moſt juſtly and honorably (and in purſuance of Acts and Ordinances of Parliament, and generall Orders of his Lordſhips made for prohibiting ſouldiers to intermeddle with Titles or poſſeſſions in Law) granted the Lord *Baltemore* his Excellencies protection, and ordered that no Officers or ſouldiers ſhall any wayes intermeddle with turning the Lord *Baltemore*, or his Tenants or Agents, out of poſſeſſion, or any wayes to interpoſe therein at their perils.

Notwithſtanding which, the Lord *Arundell* and his practiſing and combining Agents have ſithence procured from ſome of thoſe at the Committee at Marleborough (ſo unacquainted with the buſineſſe

neſſe as aforeſaid) another Order to croſſe the Order of the firſt of Auguſt, and confirme that of the 26 of July, and threaten to ſettle the ſame by force and power, whereby the Lord *Baltemore* will be moſt unjuſtly injured, and the ſhedding of bloud may be occaſioned by the Tenants keeping poſſeſſion upon the former grants of the ſame ſtanding and lawfull Committee of *Wilts*, if not prevented by the wiſedome and power of Parliament.

Which in Juſtice it ought to be, not only by reaſon of theſe foule practiſes to obtaine the aforeſaid Orders, but for that the very reaſon and ground of procuring the originall Order of the 22. of Dec. 1647, are untrue, the premiſes being pretended to be in the Lord *Arundels* poſſeſſion untill the time of the Sequeſtration, whereas by the Oaths of many witneſſes, and Certificates and Orders of the Committee of *Wilts*, its apparently proved that the Lord *Baltemore* hath had the true and lawfull poſſeſſion thereof theſe ten years laſt paſt: Nor by the Acts or Orders of Parliament ought to be put out of the poſſeſſion of his Mannor-Houſe otherwiſe than by Law, the ſame being allowed him by Act of Parliament over and above the third part of his Eſtate, the Lord *Baltemore* being a Recuſant, but no Delinquent.

And that you may ſee thoſe Gentlemen of the Committee at Salisbury had good grouuds to preſerve the poſſeſſion under the *L. Baltemores* Title, untill the *Law* otherwiſe determined the ſame (notwithſtanding the Order of thoſe of the Committee at Marlborough) be pleaſed to view this ſhort, yet full Order of Parliament in ſuch caſes.

Die Martis 14 *Aprilis*. 1646.

ORdered by the Commons aſſembled in Parliament, That the Committees of either Houſe, and all other Committees that act by Authority of both or either Houſe, doe take care, and they are hereby enjoyned, not to heare, determine, or intermeddle with the private intereſt, Right or Title of any particular perſon or perſons, or with any matter depending, or in difference between Party and Party, unleſſe they be thereunto expreſly authorized by Ordinance of Parliament.

Hen. Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

FINIS.